

We claim:

1. A method for providing a pressurized fluid to be passed to a downstream component, which comprises the steps of:

providing a pressure accumulator partially filled with a fluid;

heating the fluid by supplying heat to an upper region of the pressure accumulator, and during a standby mode, evaporating some of the fluid in the pressure accumulator for generating and maintaining a pressure, and for generating a vapor cushion.

2. The method according to claim 1, which comprises supplying the heat such the vapor cushion is followed by a hot-fluid region containing a hot fluid formed from heating the fluid, and the hot-fluid region is in turn followed by a cold-fluid region containing a cold fluid from the fluid, a ratio of a volume of the hot-fluid region to a volume of the vapor cushion being approximately 2:1, the volume of the hot-fluid region and the volume of the vapor cushion forming approximately 10% - 30% of a volume of the pressure accumulator.

3. The method according to claim 2, which comprises setting the volume of the hot-fluid region and the volume of the

vapor cushion to be 18% of the volume of the pressure accumulator.

4. The method according to claim 2, which comprises setting an amount of the hot fluid to approximately correspond to an amount of the fluid required by the downstream component.

5. The method according to claim 2, which comprises reducing the pressure in the pressure accumulator during a passing on of the fluid to the downstream component, resulting in a lowering of a fluid level of the fluid in the pressure accumulator, the pressure reduction occurring due to the hot fluid and a vapor of the vapor cushion being cooled in a lower region of the pressure accumulator due to a releasing of heat to an insulating device disposed in the lower region.

6. The method according to claim 1, which comprises admixing a non-condensable gas with the fluid.

7. The method according to claim 1, which comprises conducting the fluid to a control rod drive of a reactor of a boiling-water nuclear power plant.

8. The method according to claim 1, which comprises conducting the fluid as emergency cooling water to an

emergency cooling system of a pressurized-water nuclear power plant.